This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An embedded device configured to provide an audio status output, the embedded device comprising:

a processor;

an input button in electronic communication with the processor;

a speaker in electronic communication with the processor for outputting an audio output;

memory in electronic communication with the processor for storing data;

~~an~~ a user identification for identifying the user of the embedded device wherein the user identification is stored in the memory; and

an audio output generator stored in the memory and ~~implementing a method comprising~~ configured to:

~~receiving~~ receive a generate audio command initiated by a user through use of the input button in electronic communication with the processor;

~~accessing~~ access status data stored in the memory;

~~accessing~~ access the user identification stored in the memory;

~~including~~ include the user identification with the status data;

~~converting~~ convert the status data and the included user identification to audio output data, the audio output data comprising a plurality of distinct audio signals that are machine-decipherable and that correspond to individual data elements of the user identification and the status data; and

~~providing~~ provide the audio output data to the speaker such that the audio output based on the audio output data is generated.

2. (Original) The embedded device as defined in claim 1, wherein the embedded device is a microcontroller-based device.

3. (Original) The embedded device as defined in claim 1, wherein the audio output comprises DTMF tones.

4. (Original) The embedded device as defined in claim 1, wherein the status data includes dynamic device-specific input/output data.

5. (Original) The embedded device as defined in claim 1, wherein the status data includes state data.

6. (Previously Presented) The embedded device as defined in claim 1, wherein the status data is comprised of individual data elements.

7. (Original) The embedded device as defined in claim 1, wherein the embedded device is a television.

8. (Original) The embedded device as defined in claim 1, wherein the embedded device is a consumer electronics device.

9. (Currently Amended) A system for providing an audio status output describing an embedded device to an audio status collector over a communication network, the system comprising:

an embedded device configured to generate the audio status output comprising:

a processor;

an input button in electronic communication with the processor;

a speaker in electronic communication with the processor for outputting an audio output;

memory in electronic communication with the processor for storing data;

~~an~~ a user identification for identifying the user of the embedded device wherein the user identification is stored in the memory; and

an audio output generator stored in the memory and ~~implementing a method comprising~~ configured to:

~~receiving~~ receive a generate audio command initiated by a user through use of the input button in electronic communication with the processor;

~~accessing~~ access status data stored in the memory;

~~accessing~~ access the user identification stored in the memory;

~~including~~ include the user identification with the status data;

~~converting~~ convert the status data and the included user identification to audio output data, the audio output data comprising a plurality of distinct audio signals that are machine-decipherable and that correspond to individual data elements of the user identification and the status data; and

~~providing~~ provide the audio output data to the speaker such that the audio output based on the audio output data is generated; and

an audio status collector comprising:

an audio decoder for decoding the audio output;

a communications module for connecting to and listening on the communication network, the communications module in electronic communication with the audio decoder; and

an audio decoding table for use by the audio decoder in decoding the audio output, whereby the audio decoder hears the audio output and decodes the audio output to obtain the user identification and the status data.

10. (Original) The system as defined in claim 9, wherein the embedded device is a microcontroller-based device.

11. (Original) The system as defined in claim 9, wherein the audio output comprises DTMF tones.

12. (Original) The system as defined in claim 9, wherein the status data includes dynamic device-specific input/output data.

13. (Original) The system as defined in claim 9, wherein the status data includes state data.

14. (Previously Presented) The system as defined in claim 9, wherein the status data is comprised of individual data elements.

15. (Currently Amended) A method for providing an audio status output describing an embedded device to an audio status collector over a communication network, the method comprising:

providing an embedded device configured to generate the audio status output;

processing inputs of the embedded device to provide status data that describes operation of the embedded device;

receiving a generate audio command initiated by a user through use of an input button of the embedded device in electronic communication with a processor of the embedded device;

accessing the status data stored in memory of the embedded device;

accessing ~~an~~ a user identification stored in memory of the embedded device that identifies the user of the embedded device;

including the user identification with the status data;

converting the status data and the included user identification to audio output data, the audio output data comprising a plurality of distinct audio signals that are machine-decipherable and that correspond to individual data elements of the user identification and the status data; and

providing the audio output data to a speaker of the embedded device such that the audio output based on the audio output data is generated;

communicating the audio output to an audio status collector via the communication network; and

decoding the audio output by an audio decoder of the audio status collector through use of an audio decoding table to obtain the user identification and the status data.

16. (Original) The method as defined in claim 15, wherein the embedded device is a television.

17. (Original) The method as defined in claim 15, wherein the embedded device is a consumer electronics device.

18. (Original) The method as defined in claim 15, wherein the communication network is a telephone network.

19. (Original) The method as defined in claim 15, wherein the communication network is a cellular telephone network.

20. (Original) The method as defined in claim 15, wherein the communication network is a radio network.